



GARRISON **F**ood **S**ervice **E**quipment **UPDATE**

PURCHASING FSE THROUGH NORMAL SUPPLY CHANNELS

The food service community is strongly advised to discontinue the practice of requisitioning food service equipment (FSE) through the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP), considered to be the normal supply channel. Processing requisitions and purchasing FSE thru the DSCP has been determined to be the least efficient method and is therefore highly discouraged. The first choice, when considering the purchase of FSE, should be with the Prime Vendor (PV).

The Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence will review all requisitions, prepared by Army Installations and destined for DSCP, to better assist our customers. When and if it is determined that the regular (“traditional”) supply system will be used to purchase FSE, the requisition will be submitted to DSCP for processing. Following are several facts that will explain just why this method of requisitioning FSE is not as efficient as using the PV. The DSCP is required to determine the “best available price” for commercial items. In determining the best available price, the DSCP must solicit FSE sources that can offer competitive pricing and delivery on requested items. This particular segment, in this traditional requisition process, is extremely time-consuming and has been compounded by recent government organizational realignment (downsizing) initiatives at DSCP. Quite often ACES & DSCP representatives have noted that Installation Resource Managers are not familiar with the PV program and continue to process FSE requisitions through DSCP by National Stock Number (NSN). It is strongly suggested that food service personnel share this information with other offices that are involved in the equipment requisition process, such as; Resource Management, Contracting, Department of Public Works, Property Book, etc. Please be aware that when using this method of requisitioning FSE customers will notice that, in addition to the extra long lead times (months), equipment actually ordered could be a Generic Brand, which may not be appropriate, is more expensive for DSCP to process, and ultimately adds to the overall cost of the item. The “traditional” method also increases the possibility of ordering the wrong type or size of equipment, which is not compatible to the customer’s technical needs. The PV program offers technical requirements and eliminates most of the ordering errors prior to shipment.

The Prime Vendor (PV) Food Service Equipment Program

In September 1999 the Army introduced an alternative method of purchasing Garrison Food Service Equipment called, “The PV Food Service Equipment Program”. Purchasing food service equipment through the PV program is now in its second year and is rapidly becoming a success story. As with any newly established program there appears to be a certain amount of apprehension in using this program. There also seems to be some misunderstanding in the various alternatives that are now available in requisitioning and purchasing of garrison type food service equipment FSE. This article is designed to provide information, clarification to the food service community, and assist in the decision making process to determine the best method to be used when requisitioning food service equipment. Again, as previously mentioned, it is strongly suggested that food service personnel share this information with other offices that are involved in the equipment requisition process, such as; Resource Management, Contracting, Department of Public Works, Property Book, etc.

Today purchasing equipment is becoming a comparative buying market, buying through Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP), Prime PV Food Service Program, General Services Administration (GSA), and local purchase. The PV program was primarily designed to streamline the method of acquiring FSE. In past years the bulk of FSE purchases were made using the traditional supply system, ordering by national stock numbers (NSN) through DSCP. Although this traditional method is still available, it is becoming the least preferred method of purchasing FSE. The information provided below should clarify some of the misconception of purchasing equipment through the PV and assist in the decision making process of the best method to purchase equipment.



PURCHASING FSE THROUGH THE PV PROGRAM

The PV equipment program was developed as a governmental Contract with four Prime Vendors strategically located in Regions throughout the world, with a broad selection of equipment manufacturers that will provide the Army with FSE requirements. This simply means that when requisitions are submitted through the respective area PV it would be the same as submitting them through the normal supply system. Important information concerns for Resource Managers are that customers submit orders directly to the PV (off-line requisition), the PV sends orders to DSCP for payment/billing, and then the PV fills and tracks orders through final acceptance. When the PV sends the order to DSCP the appropriate monies (funds) are immediately obligated, as with the traditional requisitioning process.

Customers need to be aware of the added benefit of equipment full life cycle support when purchasing FSE through the PV.

The full life cycle support begins with the customer in the planning stage. The PV will provide you with technical support to assist in choosing the most efficient economical piece of equipment for your operation.

Why purchase a Cadillac (automobile) when a Chevrolet will do? Consider PV as your one-stop shopping for brand name products service center. Timely delivery is another important factor when purchasing equipment. Direct deliveries can be expected in days/weeks and are flexible to meet customer needs. Reports have recognized additional shipping time for OCONUS deliveries due to unavoidable circumstances and requirements. At present more efficient OCONUS shipping alternatives are being explored. Other benefits included in the full life cycle service are; guaranteed competitive pricing, installation service, warranty service, training, long term maintenance, repairs and replacements. Customers have a direct link with the PV and can expect 24hour/7day help desk for technical and warranty support. When purchasing FSE through your PV you can expect to pay a much lower surcharge than through the traditional supply system.



PURCHASING THROUGH THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA)

Unlike the two supply system methods discussed above (DSCP and the PV) the GSA is not the primary supply source for providing food service equipment. The GSA supply channel is normally used to purchase décor, furniture, office, and expendable supplies.



THE LOCAL PURCHASE METHOD OF SUPPLY



The local purchase method of supply is set aside for special and unique purchases. For the most part only small, inexpensive, portable type equipment items are purchase locally.

Conclusion:

As previously noted, today is becoming a comparative buying market. Unlike previous years there are several options available to Food Service Managers when purchasing FSE. The more up front time spent in evaluating the best method of acquiring your purchase will possibly decrease the time and monies spent in maintenance, training, and the frustration of equipment downtime in the future. Be a cautious well-informed shopper by taking advantage of available information, discounts, warranties, maintenance, training associated with your purchase to ensure you purchase exactly what you need to meet your individual needs.

The information provided above pertains **'ONLY TOO'** Garrison Food Service Type Equipment. All Field Food Service Equipment will continue to be requisitioned using the traditional Army Supply System method.

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